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Why should regions invest in Robotics?

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The European Commission, DG CONNECT, the Tuscany Region and the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna - BioRobotics Institute organised a workshop on "The role of Regions in Supporting Robotics" in Brussels on October 30 2013.

The event was an important opportunity to meet more than 50 people including EC representatives from various DGs, Regional and Member States policy makers, industry and robotics researchers.

Robotics has a huge potential to contribute to growth, job creation and to solving major societal challenges. Regions should fully exploit potential in terms of contribution to local economies, for instance advanced robotics technologies with increased flexibility can play a key role in making local manufacturing and production competitive again¹, and also contributing to greener economy, with the potential to re-shoring some industries (e.g: food supply). The health and monitoring domains also show great potential at regional level, since these cannot be delocalised.

The importance of robotics today is due to its expanding market size and application areas and to its strong impact on the competitiveness of the EU's main industries. Large sectors including automotive or agrofood, representing more than 17% of the EU GDP, 80% of EU exports, employing 25% of the workforce and accounting for 80% of private R&D spending, would have disappeared from higher-wage regions such as Europe without intensive use of robotics.

The main objective of the workshop was to inform Regions about the strategic value of Robotics, and to promote a network of Regions for which Robotics is already (or could become) a priority, by connecting existing excellence centres, clusters, regional initiatives, sharing physical infrastructures and resources at regional and European level, or developing new ones, as well as optimising funding at regional and EU level.

To check out the presentations please see the page of BioRobotics Institute for the workshop ([click here](#) ^[1]).

Contact

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